

Tenneco Minerals

A Tenneco Company

DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY

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m/053/005

Rec Dobm
3-16-90 (see MrP)

March 12, 1990

Mr. Lowell Braxton
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203

Reference: Second Solution Breach at the Goldstrike Mine

Dear Mr. Braxton:

We regret to inform you that Tenneco Minerals experienced a second breach of sodium cyanide solution at its Goldstrike Mine in Southwestern, Utah.

The breach was observed at 4:35 p.m. on March 9, 1990. From what was observed, leach solutions apparently worked through the heap to a solution channel (which was the result of the previous breach) and surfaced to the ripped and bermed dike Tenneco had placed across the old conveyor belt ramp. The solutions managed to work past the berm and travel approximately 40 feet past containment where the solutions collected along a clay berm. Tenneco analyzed the solutions and found them to be process solutions with a cyanide strength of 450 PPM cyanide.

Reviewing the area size, Tenneco estimated that 300 gallons of process solution had escaped.

As required by our operating permit the on-site spill area was promptly neutralized with approximately .8 lbs of calcium hypochlorite and phone calls to the Southwest District Health Department, Utah Department of Health, and Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining were made.

Site clean-up was conducted by removing all impacted area clays/rock and placing them on the leach pad. Further, the belt access ramp was excavated to the leach pad liner to prevent this from occurring again. Finally, a 40' x 20' area close to the channel zone was removed from leaching.

MR. LOWELL BRAXTON
SECOND SOLUTION BREACH

DATE: MARCH 12, 1990
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By this notification, Tenneco Minerals is complying with its operating permit to notify regulatory agencies as to the event and remediation. Please advise us as to any concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

TENNECO MINERALS COMPANY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ken A. Kluksdahl".

Ken A. Kluksdahl
Mine Manager

KAK:bas

Enclosures:

cc: Southwest District Health Department
Bureau of Land Management
Utah Bureau of Water Pollution Control